

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00733 180604Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SSC-01 AID-05 PC-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

EUR-12 /118 W

-----010770 181948Z /46

R 171400Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1891

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LILONGWE 0733

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MI

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT DISSOLVED--NEW ELECTIONS IN JUNE

REF: LILONGWE 475

1. AS ANTICIPATED REFTTEL, PRESIDENT BANDA ANNOUNCED UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE US AND UK THAT PARLIAMENT IS DISSOLVED EFFECTIVE MAY 16. WE UNDERSTAND THAT NEW ELECTIONS ARE TENTATIVELY SLATED FOR JUNE 26, BUT THAT DATE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED AS YET.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT INCLUDED STATEMENT THAT DISTRICT CONFERENCES OF THE MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY (MCP) WOULD COMMENCE MAY 18 TO SELECT THE THREE TO FIVE CANDIDATES FOR EACH CONSTITUENCY IN MALAWI WHO WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS. DISTRICT CONFERENCES WILL BE ATTENDED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE MCP DISTRICT COMMITTEES, LEAGUE OF MALAWI WOMEN AND LEAGUE OF MALAWI YOUTH AS WELL AS THE AREA CHAIRMEN OF THOSE THREE ORGANIZATIONS,
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CHAIRMEN AND COUNCILORS OF DISTRICT AND TOWN COUNCILS, ALL MAYORS AND ALL CITY AND TOWN COUNCILORS, CHIEFS AND SUB-CHIEFS. CAMPAIGNING BY PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED, BUT IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER AND HOW CAMPAIGNING MAY BE ALLOWED FOR THE REGULAR ELECTION SINCE THIS WILL BE THE FIRST SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN WHICH THE ENTIRE ELECTORATE WILL PARTICIPATE. PRES-

IDENT BANDA WILL APPROVE THE LISTS OF CANDIDATES BEFORE THE ELECTORATE VOTES, BY SECRET BALLOT, FOR ONE OF THE THREE TO FIVE CANDIDATES IN EACH CONSTITUENCY.

3. THE VOTER REGISTRATION PERIOD HAS BEEN EXTENDED FROM MAY 13 TO MAY 31, PROBABLY BECAUSE THE ELECTION IS BEING HELD LATER IN JUNE THAN ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. GOVERNMENT AND MCP OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN IMPLORING THE ELECTORATE TO REGISTER BUT IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE AT THIS STAGE WHAT THE RESPONSE HAS BEEN.

4. THE NEXT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT WILL BE LATE JULY. STEVENSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 17 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: LILONGWE
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780550/aaaabqeq.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MI, MCP
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